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MICHIGAN MEDICAL MARIJUANA NEWS & INFO

FEBRUARY 2016 | VOL. 6 | ISSUE 1

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IN THIS ISSUE:
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JOHN SINCLAIR & MORE!

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Notes



Welcome to February, readers!

We are proud to say that the magazine you are holding right now marks the 5th anniversary of the *MMM Report*! We would like to express our gratitude to all of our readers, and give a special thanks to all of the advertisers who make this free publication possible.

We wanted to use a part of this space to thank all of the vendors, instructors and other sponsors who have committed to participating with the 11th MMM Conference including:

Shakedown Street, Cannabis Stakeholders Group, Society of Sohai, Horizon Hydroponics, New World Seeds, ACT Laboratories, Michigan Organic Solutions, Weed-Cigarette, Mota Rebel, Detroit Nutrient Company, Greenways Herbal Care, Growco, JC3, Lush Lighting, Captain Kirk's Edibles, Gold Crown Seeds, Detroit Pipe Company, Matt Tuck, Hyzer's Disc & Smoke Shop, Galactic Gardens, Sweed Dreams, Global Glass Works, Zen Products, The Cultivation Station, Lexco Case, Ript Genetics, Paul Samways, Joe Pieth, Scott Hinman and John Uljaky.

Apologies to any that we failed to mention. New names are constantly being added to that list! This event is going to be epic, we are all 'buzzing' with the anticipation of hosting another conference at the Orbit Room in Grand Rapids!

We would like to give another huge shout-out to all of the unsung heroes of marijuana reform. We are grateful for the positive steps that have been taken over the decades to fight prohibition. Another round of thank you's goes to all of the men and women who have risked their freedom to provide the herb to the masses. We would also like to give a nod to Bernie Sanders, for speaking so plainly and sensibly on the topic of federal marijuana legalization.

The *MMM Report* is looking forward to the future of the MJ industry in Michigan. Who knows what the next 5 years will be like? For as unsure as the future might be, rest assured; we will be bringing you the straight dope!

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Dispensaries Help Flint

FLINT: While Flint residents struggle with the continuous water crisis in the city, businesses around the city and across the nation are doing their part to help. This includes medical marijuana businesses such as the Green Bean and Green RX. Green RX, jointly owned by Brooke Malik and former Pistons player Ben Wallace, is not yet open but still held a water giveaway in their parking lot on the 25th. They brought in 600 cases of water to distribute to anyone who needed it.



Rachelle Arnott, owner of the Green Bean, started raising money to help the citizens of Flint in mid-January and told ABC 12 News they had already raised around \$1,200 with a promise to match any donation – up to \$5,000. “Flint is our home community we love it here,” Arnott told ABC, “and obviously with this big crisis here we definitely wanted to give a helping hand in helping the city of Flint.” Arnott went on to point out that even her customer’s medication is suffering due to the water problem saying, “You know this is essentially a weed. And a weed can’t even grow in this. So this is killing peoples’ medicine and they can’t have their medicine like they normally have because of the water.” Though many may disagree with the type of product the dispensaries sell, these businesses are doing what they feel is right to help their community.



Grow with Care

GRAND RAPIDS: A 37 year-old Grand Rapids man is in the hospital with critical injuries resulting from a house fire earlier this month. While the police department would not comment on exact details, they did tell *mLive* the explosion which started the fire was caused by a marijuana grow operation in the home. The 37 year-old suffered severe burns and smoke inhalation, a 29 year-old also at the scene was treated and released for non-life threatening injuries, while another 29 year-old and a 6 year-old at the home were unharmed. Fire officials indicated the grow was a legal operation, but police refuse to comment if the grow was medicinal or if the grower was registered with the state. This is the second explosion in a month related to grow operations in Michigan.



Not Good for You or Your Plants

FLINT: The water crisis of Flint has been reported on constantly, not only by our own state news but nationally as well. It is a problem affecting every

citizen of Flint, no matter the race, religion, age, or socio-economic status. While most think of the water they drink or bathe in, many forget to consider what they are feeding their plants. *High Times* spoke with Michigan State University’s professor of biology, Frank Telewski, about the possible implications from using Flint’s water on medicinal marijuana plants. Telewski told the magazine that plants grown with the water are most definitely contaminated, “lead is absorbed in living tissues and it does not biodegrade. If lead is soluble, it is

getting in the plants.” Most gardeners already use the reverse osmosis process, which removes lead and other chemicals from the water supply, to water their garden, and those who don’t are able to get clean water from many hydroponic and gardening stores around the city.

Dispensaries in the city have not yet had any complaints about the quality of their products, nor have they seen much of a difference in the marijuana being produced and sold, but this could be because many growers are already living and growing away from the high crime area of Flint and so their plants have not been exposed. Patients in the area that grow their own medicine are having more difficulty as higher concentrations of lead can make it impossible to grow anything at all, leaving patients that may not have the money for dispensary marijuana out of the medicine they need. The water problem in Flint is affecting people, pets, and now medicine.



Police Raid Caregiver – No Charges?

LIVINGSTON COUNTY:

Police raided various locations this month seizing the property of 12 people, none of whom have had court charges filed against them since

the raid. The locations raided were all connected to Darryl Berry, a caregiver in Howell Township. Berry claims the police stole from him as well as people he had visited or taught to grow. According to the *Detroit Free Press*, police seized around 556 plants, 15 pounds of marijuana, 7 pounds of processed marijuana, possible edibles as well as \$195,983 in cash.

Berry claims officers of the Western Wayne Narcotics and Criminal Investigations Unit destroyed his home, flipping beds and emptying drawers onto the floor. He maintains that since his home was first raided in 2012, he has invited police into his garden to make sure he is doing everything legally. However,

according to court documents, the 12 people targeted were believed to be “involved in the growth and distribution of marijuana under the guise of the Medical Marihuana Act.” The civil suit to seize homes, cash, cellphones, computers, vehicles, guns, and bank accounts from the 12 named in the documents is still pending. Berry is defending himself, however, saying he did not sell marijuana but instead received “donations” from other caregivers and had “researched every part of the law and made sure there was no chance I’d be illegal.”

The investigative unit disagrees, asserting that Berry was paying people to use their property for separate grow operations, something he vehemently denies, though deed records show he does own one of the other houses raided. Berry is accusing police of outright stealing from him with the intention of selling his product to dispensaries for the officers’ personal gain because, as he says, “To them I’m just a drug dealer and they are 200 officers who don’t get paid what they should get paid.” A tentative bench trial has been set for November regarding the seized property.



Synthetic Charge Thrown Out

GRAND HAVEN: Max Lorincz was charged in early 2015 with possession of marijuana after police came to his home responding to a medical call and found a small amount of marijuana oil. Lorincz, who has been

using medical marijuana for a back injury, claimed that he is a legally registered medical marijuana patient and refused to plead guilty to the charge. Shortly after, county prosecutors upgraded the charge to a felony, claiming results from the crime lab identified the THC as unknown in origin because no plant material could be found. Lorincz’s attorney, Michael Komorn, claims, “some prosecutors across the state have pressured the crime lab to report oils and waxes as ‘origin unknown’ to allow them to pursue harsher charges.”

Ottawa County Prosecutor Ron Frantz, however, defends the charge, telling *mLive* it is a “legal question of statutory interpretation. The court’s decision turned on definitions and statutory language that we believed supported the charge as written. The District Court Judge found our interpretation to be correct.” The County Circuit judge did not agree, however, and threw out the felony charge against Lorincz. While this is a small victory, Lorincz still has further to go as his 6 year-old son was placed in foster care shortly after charges were filed over a year ago.



Warren Faces Lawsuits

WARREN: Two companies looking to start medical marijuana grow operations in Warren are suing the city for violating the MMA. The businesses, Macomb Supreme Industrial and JJN, are attempting to get court orders to force the Warren Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to overturn a decision made by a zoning inspector that denied a certificate of compliance with the local zoning ordinance. The zoning inspector, Everett Murphy, is denying allegations that he declined to even look at the applications, let alone that he never “processed” them. Instead he claims he denied the applications because medical marijuana is not specifically listed in the zoning ordinance.

After appealing the decision to the zoning board, which unanimously sided with Murphy, the companies filed against the city. *The Oakland Press* reported the lawsuit as saying, “Appellee’s denial of (each company’s) application was arbitrary, capricious, and/or clearly an abuse or unwanted exercise of discretion for the reason that the denial was based on a proposed use which is lawful, is protected conduct under the laws of the State of Michigan, and a municipality cannot ban such conduct. Further, the denial was based on the state of mind of the administrator at the time he denied ... application.”

An attorney for the two corporations, Denise Pollicella, has said this application cannot be blocked “just because the activity or type of operation isn’t mentioned among the uses mentioned in Warren’s zoning ordinance”. She also points out that less controversial businesses would not have this problem when trying to get their application approved even if the business was not specifically listed in the ordinance. To list every possible business that could come to a commercial area would be thousands of pages long. This is not the first medical marijuana lawsuit brought against the city. Last September, 23 individuals sued the city due to being ticketed for bogus zoning violations.

More Michigan news on next page...



Michigan News

by Ben Horner



Magic Buds Raided

KALKASKA: Owner of Magic Buds Provisioning Center in Kalkaska, Ken Murray, opened the dispensary after the moratorium on medical marijuana centers expired. He received a use permit and felt he was in full compliance, and began working with the local leaders to set up an ordinance to license Provisioning Centers and cultivation centers. In November

of last year the village adopted the ordinance, which was set to go into effect December 17th. Three days prior to the ordinance to regulate Ken's new business went into effect, the Traverse Narcotics Team (TNT) decided to raid Magic Buds and the Murray home.

"Where's the Money," shouted the officers raiding his house. Traumatized, Ken cooperated as much as he could but he didn't have the large sums of money that they were looking for. Bank accounts were frozen, but there wasn't much there either. TNT took the meds at the dispensary and what little cash they could find. So far, no charges have been filed as a result of the raid.

Ken reopened the store shortly after the raid. On January 31 he received his license from the Village of Kalkaska to operate his dispensary.



Mixed Verdicts for Al Witt

GAYLORD: The jury trial for Al Witt, co-owner of Cloud 45, was a huge disappointment. Al was convicted by a jury of his peers in one of the oddest court scenes, after

losing his section eight hearing that gave him a medical marijuana defense. The jury found him not guilty on one charge, hung on another and guilty on the charge of delivery and manufacturing a controlled substance.

The charges are a result of the raids on all the dispensaries in Gaylord. Al Witt was working at Gaylord Provisions when a confidential informant (CI), came in to the dispensary and made a controlled buy for the Traverse Narcotics Team.

The trial began on the same day that a Gaylord ordinance allowing for medical marijuana centers went into effect. The ordinance was introduced as a petition drafted by the Cannabis Stakeholders Group (CSG), managed by Al Witt. Al told the MMM Report that he plans to appeal.

Courtroom support came in a unified way from Al's local community, and from several business around the state including Sweetleaf of Flint, Hybrid Magazine, Bid Daddy's Organics, Gaylord Provisions, Seed2Cure, Jamie Lowell from Third Coast, Nick Panessidi from Michigan Safe Transfer, The Herbal Center of Mt. Morris, Captain Kirk, AllWell Natural Health and D&L's Medical Exchange of Gaylord. Activist attorney Sarah Swain from Kansas flew in to support Al. The overwhelming Unity gallivanted at the Otsego Club for a unity forum.



Activists Unite for Safe Access

OWOSSO: On January 4th, the city council of Owosso considered making an update to the cities recent medical marijuana ordinance after the Owosso Relief Center opened downtown after successfully securing a use permit through the city. During the comment section, Attorney Matt Abel from MI Norml and Cannabis Council in Detroit made it clear that it was not right to change the ordinance in such a fashion and declared that they would litigate if the council voted to amend the ordinance to push out Owosso Relief Center. Al Witt, Chad Morrow, Hemptress Jolene and myself, Ben Horner representing the Cannabis Stake Holders came to add comment. The council deliberated for some time before deciding in favor of Owosso Relief Center. Safe access was saved by a combined effort and a show of unity.



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National News

by Rachel Bunting



Chandler Jones May Face Suspension for Synthetic Pot Use

MASSACHUSETTS: The NFL will be looking into a recent hospital visit by New England Patriots defensive end, Chandler Jones. Jones was admitted to the hospital after showing up

at a police station “acting confused” according to MassLive. EMS checked him out at the department and transported to a local hospital, where it was revealed that he had suffered from a bad reaction to synthetic marijuana. While synthetic marijuana is illegal, the companies that produce them are constantly changing their chemical make-up to side-step federal guidelines. So while what Jones used may have been legal, as the chemicals may have not yet been added to the synthetic marijuana chemicals list, they may be banned under NFL policies.

Jones could be penalized if he is currently in stage one or two of the NFL drug program, if he is not in either of those drug programs then it is possible he could be placed into the program with no other punishments. There have been previous cases where synthetic marijuana was not punished by the league, but the policy was revised in September 2014 and it is unknown if the synthetic drug made the list of banned substances. This could raise the question of whether banning marijuana for athletes is worth the risk of players landing in the hospital for using technically “legal” substances in its place.



Legalization in the Grand Canyon State

ARIZONA: The Campaign to Regulate Marijuana like Alcohol is nearing its goal of gathering the 150,642 signatures needed to get their legalization proposal on the ballot. While the group is only a few thousand short of the needed signatures, they are aiming to collect 225,000 to ensure they will have enough once invalid signatures are thrown out. The proposed act, called the *Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act*, would allow adults 21 and older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana and grow up to six plants in their own home, as long as they are in a secure area.

The initiative would also mimic Colorado's distribution system allowing licensed businesses to produce and sell the plant. Finally, it would create a Department of Marijuana Licenses and Control, which would oversee the “cultivation, manufacturing, testing, transportation, and sale of the marijuana” as well as establishing a 15% tax to be used to fund education and public health. Under the proposed change, it would still be illegal to drive while impaired and buy for or give cannabis to anyone under the age of 21. It also forbids the revenue from taxes to flow into the state's general fund, so it cannot be spent anywhere other than where intended.



“What’s Up, Doc?”

TEXAS: U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents were less than amused when they stopped a tractor-trailer carrying fresh carrots at the Pharr International Bridge only to discover some non-edible packages mixed in. Efrain Solis Jr., Port Director, told NDCDFW, “Once again, drug smuggling organizations have demonstrated their creativity in attempting to smuggle large quantities of narcotics across the U.S./Mexico border. Our officers are always ready to meet those challenges and remain vigilant towards any type of illicit activities.” After searching the entire trailer, agents found more than 2,800 hidden packages of marijuana worth about \$500,000. The marijuana was wrapped in orange tape and shaped to look like a large carrot. Homeland Security agents are investigating the incident.

Founders Fund Invests in Cannabis

SEATTLE, WA: The marijuana industry has finally gained some support from big venture capitalists. Most large investment firms have kept some space between themselves and the controversial marijuana industry, but Founders Fund crossed that space and has invested millions in Privateer Holdings, a Seattle private equity firm that deals with medical and recreational marijuana. Almost all investments come from individuals, private investors, or friends and family of business owners but with an investment from a reputable company such as Founders Fund that could soon change. Founders Fund has backed big names such as Facebook, Palantir Technologies, and Space X as well as having well-known PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel as an employee. Privateer's CEO, Brendan Kennedy, believes the Founders Fund investment will open the door for other big name investors to become involved in the industry.



Marijuana for Migraines

WASHINGTON: Researchers from the University of Colorado Anschutz, Medical Campus have been involved in a 4 year study monitoring 121 patients diagnosed with migraines which were being treated with medical marijuana.

According to the *Deccan Chronicle*, results from the study show that the average number of migraines per month dropped from 10.4 to 4.6. The drop is substantial, and is one of the first studies to relate a drop in migraine frequency to medical marijuana use. Of the 121 patients, 103 reported a decrease in the frequency of their migraines, 15 reported having the same number, and only 3 saw an increase in the number of migraines they suffered.

While this was a controlled study, as none of the participants were taking any other migraine relieving medications, it was not as tightly controlled as some would have liked. The patients were not restricted to the form of cannabis used, so while patients seemed to prefer the instantaneous effect of inhaled marijuana as opposed to edibles - which can take longer to hit the body, there is no way of knowing which form of cannabis was most effective at helping or preventing migraines. It is a huge step in the direction of treating migraines, but further studies will be needed to verify the results.



Massachusetts Senators Visit Colorado

COLORADO: Eight senators from Massachusetts have traveled to Colorado to get a closer look at the legal marijuana industry and prepare themselves for issues that could arise if recreational use is legalized in their state after the November ballots are counted. Jason M. Lewis, the leader of the trip and the chairman of the special Senate Committee on Marijuana, told the *Boston Globe* that the aim of the visit is to prepare and learn. "What we've learned is that while the implementation of legalized marijuana in Colorado has gone reasonably well, there are many, many different issues that come up and need to be addressed - some of which you can anticipate, and some of which you can't. This trip will certainly help us reduce the number of unknowns."

The senators have talked with the top medical official at the health department as well as local police departments and the director of the Liquor and Cannabis Board of Washington state, Rick Garza (via video conference). The health department informed the senators that, aside from sporadic reports of impaired drivers and people getting sick from ingesting too much THC, there have been no alarming health trends since legalization two years ago. Police departments on the other hand, warned the senators to slow down the process. Most of the questions directed at Garza focused on how legalization was effecting children in the state. Garza responded that while Washington has not seen a spike in consumption by minors there is some concern that legalization "normalizes" drug use for kids.

While in Colorado, the senators are visiting cannabis clubs and extraction, distillation, and purification facilities to learn more about how the process works. Some of the senators are still concerned about the possibility of "corrupting children", but many feel the trip has been an eye-opener. If the legalization law in Massachusetts is passed it would make a "Cannabis Control Commission" to create and oversee a system of stores, grow sites, and edible manufacturers while also imposing a 3.75% excise tax on top of state sales tax.

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World News

by Rachel Bunting



Medical Cannabis in the Promised Land

ISRAEL: While many forms of medical marijuana are packaged and ready to be put on the shelves in Israel, Health Minister Yaakov Litzman is preparing to present reform measures to the Knesset Labor, Welfare,

and Health Committee later this week. Litzman told the *Times of Israel*, "We're working to reorganize the field of medical cannabis in order to lighten the process for those who need it and, on the other hand, to make it harder for the material to trickle into the regular market. There is no reason to make things difficult for whoever really needs it, just because there's someone who exploits it illegally."

The reform Litzman plans to introduce would train and license more doctors to prescribe the medication. Currently there are only 36 such doctors, causing patients to wait months before obtaining a prescription. The reform would also throw out the current restrictions on growing and cultivating the herb. Current restrictions call for a total of eight farms in the country, and while the reform would not limit the number of farms allowed, it would still give preference to importing the medication.



Spain Smashes Pleasure Boats

SPAIN: Smugglers coming from Morocco to Spain were extremely crafty with their trafficking, finding a way to make their cargo invisible from the ground and from the sky. A group of 17 people were arrested in multiple raids this month after Spanish police discovered they were hiding marijuana in false bottoms of their pleasure boats. According to the Digital Journal, members of the smuggling ring would pick up the packages in Moroccan waters and transport them to Cadiz where they would be moved to warehouses. Police seized five boats with a total of 4.5 tonnes (9,920lbs) of marijuana. Due to its location, Spain has become a main gateway for Europe's drug trade.



Marijuana and Malaysia Don't Mix

JOHOR BAHRU: A 36-year old man and his wife appeared in the High Court of Johor Bahru this month with charges of possession of 1,239.7g (2.7lbs) of marijuana. The couple was originally charged with trafficking the drug but it was later amended to

possession. This was a lucky break as a trafficking conviction comes with a mandatory death sentence in the country. While the wife was cleared of all charges, her husband, Japidin Jaffarang, was found guilty of possession and sentenced to 14 years in prison and 10 strokes of the rotan. The rotan is a form of punishment much like caning, where a cane is soaked overnight in water (to prevent splitting and splinters) and used to whip the guilty. As an example of where marijuana possession falls on the criminal spectrum in Malaysia, a man in 1997 was sentenced to 12 years in prison and 10 strokes of the rotan for rape.



Jaycee Chan Gets 6 Months

BEIJING: Jaycee Chan, the 32 year-old son of Hollywood actor Jackie Chan, has been sentenced to six months in jail and a \$322 fine for possession of marijuana. Chan has been jailed since his arrest in

August 2014 which was taken into account at his sentencing. He was charged with "sheltering others to take drugs" and having 3.5 ounces of marijuana at his home. China is currently cracking down on high-profile celebrities using drugs and has arrested over ten celebrities in the last six months.



NDLEA Intercepts Lorry

NIGERIA: The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) informed the News Agency of Nigeria of a large seizure this month. The Agency captured a lorry (large commercial truck)

in Katsina carrying what appeared to be cans of paint. The paint on the top and in front of the shipment was real, while the multiple cans under those were filled with marijuana, cough syrup, and other psychotropic drugs. Some of the smugglers were able to run off on foot when the truck was seized but two were caught and arrested. NDLEA state commander, Hajiya Maryam, expressed concern over increasing drug use by minors, especially the use of cough syrup, issuing a plea to parents to bring their children in for rehabilitation.



Swiss Commission's Goal: 'Trial Legalization'

GENEVA: One year after Switzerland decriminalized possession of marijuana, the Swiss district is now considering legalizing the plant in an attempt to undermine the black market in cannabis. In 2013 UNICEF reported that the more liberal a country's drug laws, the less likely the adolescents in that country were

to try marijuana. This is the hope of the Swiss government as Swiss children and teenagers top the European list for experimenting with pot.

The Advisory Commission on Addiction would like to see trial legalization in the coming months, but the largest party in the federal parliament, the Swiss People's Party, has vowed to prevent the relaxing of any drug laws. As of 2013, anyone caught with under 10g of marijuana can pay an on the spot fine of \$99 to avoid a criminal record. Progress in creating a legal marketplace could end the underground sale of marijuana, making it less obtainable for adolescents. Supporters of the movement would like to see the government mimic a model similar to the one in Spain where growing marijuana for personal use is tolerated and private smoking clubs keep buyers from having to go to the streets to purchase cannabis.



Aussie Government Funds MJ Trial

AUSTRALIA: The Australian Senate has been introduced a bill that would create a

regulator to oversee the growing and distribution of cannabis for people who medically need it. The bill is sponsored by Richard di Natale, and co-sponsored by Melissa Parke and Sharman Stone. The bill could be debated as early as February, and may pass swiftly, however if it fails the Labor and Coalition board will most likely work together to draft an alternative.

The assistant health minister said there is support for the idea but the government would be waiting on the results of a trial planned in New South Wales. The trial, costing \$9 million, uses modified cannabis to treat three categories of patients; terminally ill, children with epilepsy, and cancer patients suffering from nausea related to chemotherapy. Prime Minister Tony Abbott supports the state-based drug trials and believes state law should govern these laws more than federal law should. Stone and di Natale believe the trials are simply a stalling technique and point to trials in the US, Canada, and Israel as successful. They believe the evidence is crystal clear and "Australians continue to suffer" while the government attempts to reinvent the wheel.



French Drug Trial Leaves 1 Dead, 5 Hospitalized

FRANCE: An experimental drug trial could land some researchers in jail with manslaughter charges, pending the result of an official investigation

into the trials. The experiment was testing the effects of a new painkiller, mistakenly reported by some new outlets at first to contain cannabinoids, actually acts on the endocannabinoid system, according to the *Associated Press*. It was intended to ease mood, anxiety, and pain issues as well as helping with problems associated with neurodegenerative illnesses.

The phase 1 trial began in June with 108 healthy participants, none of which had any adverse reactions to the drug. The second batch of phase 1 began with 90 volunteers on Jan. 7th. Of those 90 healthy people, 6 ended up in the hospital, with one of the six passing away 10 days after the start of the experiment. Health authorities have released a statement about the remaining patients in the hospital, saying three may face possible brain damage. The hospital has contacted the other 84 participants of the trial, ten came in for medical exams, and another five will be tested closer to their own homes, but it is unclear if the remaining sixty-nine will be monitored or tested. It is uncommon for healthy volunteers to have such adverse reactions during a phase 1 trial, which is only intended to study safe usage and side effects, before moving onto phase 2, which actually tests the effectiveness of the intention of the drug.

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GROW TIP

Making RSO (Rick Simpson Oil)

by Ben Horner

One of the most powerful cannabis products ever created is what is commonly called Rick Simpson Oil (RSO), named after Rick Simpson who popularized and promoted the oil as a cure for Cancer and many other diseases. Phoenix Tears, Honey Oil, and Hash Oil are other names for this substance, which has been used for centuries to make medicine. The oil is made of pure cannabinoids, which are the medicine like THC and CBD that are stored in the trichomes of the marijuana plant. Cannabinoids are not water soluble, so in order to extract the medicine from the plant alcohol can be used. Soaking cannabis in alcohol and then evaporating the alcohol until only the essential medicinal oils remain produces RSO.

I like to use 99.9% isopropyl alcohol, but you can also use 190 proof spirits like ever clear. The quality of the cannabis used makes a big difference, so avoid using trim that has no trichomes or that hasn't been properly dried. One trick I learned from Uncle Pete and the rest of the folks from the Seed 2 Cure organization, is that freezing the alcohol, the cannabis and all tools that you are using produces a more pure oil. By reducing the temperature, chlorophyll doesn't seep into the alcohol. Once everything is cold



enough, submerge the cannabis in the oil and agitate for about 5 minutes. Then strain the plant material out using a coffee filter or something that has a very fine mesh (20 microns or less). Repeat filtering until all plant material is removed.

Then the solution must be heated to cook off the alcohol. CAUTION: The Alcohol vapor is highly flammable. I typically use a rice cooker for the alcohol reduction and cook outside to prevent the build up of harmful and potentially explosive fumes. Just before all the alcohol is cooked off transfer the reduced solution into a thick stainless or glass cup and place on a low temp hot plate. While the

last of the alcohol simmers off add a few drops of water to make sure all the alcohol purges off. When the oil stops bubbling the oil is finished. If finished properly, the oil will have a golden color.

Dosing of cannabis oil ranges for different conditions. To treat cancer tumors, patients must consume between one half and one whole gram per day for 60 days. For autoimmune disorders, or to treat chronic pain, only 20-50 grams every 4-8 hours is needed. You cannot overdose, but RSO can cause sleepiness and disorientation until the patient gets acclimated.

For more info and instructional video check out Seed2cure.org and learn from the real experts in Michigan on the subject.



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VGIP UPDATE

by Ben Horner

Michigan on the Verge: *Factors that most impact whether we Win or Lose*

"E tu Brute?"

In northern Michigan, multiple accounts of cannabis businesses filing complaints, acting as confidential informants and willing witnesses for the prosecution has led to raids, and arrests. This method of smash and grab raids initiated by snitches in our own community needs to stop if we are going to survive and prosper in this medical marijuana industry.

Mark Dragovich, owner of the Farmacy in Fife Lake, a medical marijuana dispensary, was listed as a witness against Ken Murray for the prosecution after being raided by the Traverse Narcotics Team. Why would Mark Dragovich, a dispensary owner, speak against another dispensary owner?

Adam DeVaney and Misty Cassel of Chronic Certification in Traverse filed a complaint against MOS Certifications during our Medical Marijuana Conference in Traverse City. Why would one certification clinic snitch on another?

Arnold "Butch" Czarnecki owner of Heads-Up Smoke Shop, acted as a confidential informant. During Al Witt's jury trial last month he testified to using his Medical Marijuana Card to make controlled buys for SANE, a northern Michigan drug task force. Arnold, who owns a store in Pellston, that sells paraphernalia and other headshop products, was raided at his home. "Jars" of marijuana were found. Czarnecki was a former police officer that worked in the Detroit area for 20 years before moving up north to sell glass pipes and bath salts.

Abrogate Prohibition Michigan Makes Traction As the Petition is Circulated Around the State



The first petitions went out last month and are starting to return in the mail. It is amazing to see a real grassroots effort to end the prohibition. On Thursday, the 11th of February the validation of petitions will start. Tim Locke, the secretary/campaign director, has asked everyone to mail in what they have or reach

out through the website to have a local leader pick them up. The message is getting out there and as the weather improves there will be many opportunities to work on large events and door to door signature collection.



All the dispensary and cannabusiness owners say:

“I will be the one still left standing”

by Chuck Ream

How can we get them to realize that 95% of them will be gone unless we fight back and win, right now!!

MILegalize grew organically from the ranks of Michigan activists who have won our 25 local Michigan victories over the last 11 years.

At MILEgalize we are working very hard to win legalization of marijuana the right way in Michigan in 2016. We need your help, signatures and money.

With MILEgalize we will have local control of marijuana commerce in Michigan, for good reason. The Republican leadership of Michigan is utterly discredited. If we make the ballot we will win this, and have the best legalized cannabis program in the United States of America. We will have proper taxation and regulation - with full decriminalization!

I will tell you one thing for sure - when we fight back we are in a stronger position - and if we don't unite and fight back coherently we will be rolled over. Our patients will be ignored and our marketplace turned over to the highest bidder. You know this is true. Exactly one year ago we learned that we were faced with one organization that had millions of dollars and was going to completely wipe out the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act (MRC) and another organization which was going to turn the whole question of marijuana over to their cronies in the legislature (MCC).

With mostly just truth and righteousness on our side we formed MILEgalize and set out to win, with no reasonable path ahead of us. Then we found a heroic donor who is providing hundreds of thousands of dollars, but we still can't quite close it without you. Now our enemies have both died off; we are alive and growing stronger!

We need 253,000 good signatures, and we nearly have that many raw signatures, but that means plenty of signatures still need to be gathered. Plenty!

This is the choice of your life. Get signatures, get your friends to work, make sure signatures are valid, be sure to sign the bottom properly, and get them back to the address on the petition.

We can win cannabis liberation the right way only if you make an effort.

If the cannabis industry squanders this astounding opportunity at this moment they may deserve what happens. Our consumers and our patients however do not deserve a corrupt and expensive, still over criminalized system.

Please, help out now, let's write the laws ourselves. If we let the big boys write the laws all the little guys and gals will be snuffed.

We can win legalization in 2016 in Michigan, the tide is changing so rapidly!

Please do two things:

1) Send money or come to one of our January 30 fundraisers!!! Please.

2) GET SIGNATURES ON THE ENCLOSED PETITION, and participate and help organize the great petitioner mobilization for March 8!!!

MARCH 8:

Every Michigan cannabis activist must hold a petition during the March 8 presidential primary election, or they aren't really cannabis activist. We know the people going to vote are registered. Please, please get you and everybody you know to hold the petition on that day and get a lot of signatures. Sign up for the March 8th Great Petitioning Push!!!

We have two excellent companies employed - paid to generate tens of thousands more signatures, but without a great push by volunteers, especially on March 8, we still won't make it. It takes every one of us.

See the MILEgalize website. Thank you so much. Let's fight to win!



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TRIED NHEED WIED 59

A Column by
John Sinclair



Highest greetings from Amsterdam, former marijuana capitol of the world, although I intend to be in New Orleans for the Mardi Gras by the time you're reading this column. Sad to say, Louisiana is one of the most backward sectors of the USA in terms of its marijuana laws, and I'll go back to a life of full-time criminality as a token during my up-coming six weeks in the Crescent City.

Here in Amsterdam the attack on the cannabis culture by the Dutch authorities continues to rage, with another round of forced coffeshop closings completed in the busy Warmoeestraat on January 1, including the mammoth Grasshopper shop and the popular Baba.

Across the Damrak—the main drag—the 420 Café (my own headquarters in Amsterdam since the turn of the century) was slated to be closed on New Year's day along with the Kroon across the street, but the local government granted a 6-month extension which may or may not be extended even further. Who knows? All of these restrictive moves are totally without sense and represent a radical restructuring of a local social construct which has worked very effectively for more than 40 years.

If it weren't so sickening and stupid it would be funny: Now that 52% of Americans clearly favor legalized

marijuana in the United States, the Dutch government—after nearly half a century of permitted public smoking and copping although never actually legalizing marijuana—now wants to try to shrink the cannabis culture and drive it back out of the public eye in order more fully to commercialize and commodify the Dutch tourist industry.

The YouGov.com poll cited above, as reported in *NORML News*, concludes that “a majority of Americans, including two-thirds of Democrats, believe that marijuana should be legal [and] only 34 percent of respondents opposed the idea.” *NORML News* adds that “66% of

respondents agreed that government efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than they are worth...while 62% said that the government should no longer enforce federal law in states that have legalized and regulated the plant's use.”

The story concludes: “53% of those surveyed, including 68% of respondents between the ages of 45 and 64, acknowledged having tried cannabis.” Wow! It would seem that experiential knowledge in Americans is finally outweighing the horseshit propaganda and outright lies of the authorities. Try it! You'll like it!



And speaking of exploding bullshit myths about marijuana use propagated by the unholy alliance of whiskey drinkers and religious nuts in power, Christopher Ingraham recently pointed out in *Wonkblog* that, duh, smoking weed does not make you stupid after all.

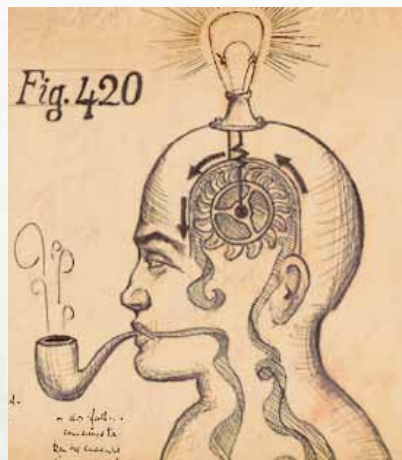
It turns out that a popular study released by Duke University in 2012 which found that persistent, heavy marijuana use through adolescence and young adulthood was associated with declines in IQ failed to account for a number of confounding factors that could also affect cognitive development, such as cigarette and alcohol use, mental illness and socioeconomic status.

Ingraham reports that two new studies this month examine the relationship between marijuana use and intelligence from two very different angles: one looks at 2,235 British teenagers between ages 8 and 16, and the other looks at the differences between American identical twin pairs in which one twin uses marijuana and the other does not.

Despite vastly different methods, Ingraham says, the studies reach the same conclusion: They found no evidence that adolescent marijuana use leads to a decline in intelligence; in fact, they found that those who used marijuana didn't experience consistently greater cognitive deficits than the others.

The twin data "fails to support the implication by the authors of the Duke study that marijuana exposure in adolescence causes neurocognitive decline," the study concludes. "On the contrary, children who are predisposed to intellectual stagnation in middle school are on a trajectory for future marijuana use." In other words, Ingraham summarizes, "rather than marijuana making kids less intelligent, it may be that kids who are not as smart or who perform poorly in school are more inclined to try marijuana at some point in their lives."

This is really quite a provocative story, and the author makes some very interesting speculations. "If marijuana use were responsible for cognitive decline," Ingraham wonders, "you might expect



to find that the more marijuana a person smokes, the less intelligent they become. But this paper found that heavier marijuana use was not associated with greater decreases in IQ.

"Marijuana is a drug," Ingraham reasons, "and just like any other drug—alcohol, nicotine, caffeine—there are risks and benefits associated with use. But exaggerating the extent of those risks and benefits won't help create smarter policies. For proof of this," he adds, "simply review the history of the drug war."

Well, yeah. Let me call on my own experiential knowledge gained from smoking marijuana virtually daily since early in 1962: Weed can make you smarter, more aware of what's happening around you, more sensitive to your environment and your fellow humans, more receptive to visual arts, music, poetry, arts activity of all kinds. It can help you open your mind to new experiences, new companions, new cultures, new perceptions of reality. These are things I know from my own experience and from observing others who are daily tokers like myself. With the current drive by the burgeoning marijuana industry to sell their products to squares and as many people as possible, someone should warn the potential smokers that they are in for a whole new ride and about to enter a significantly different mental universe than the one to which they're accustomed.

Don't get me wrong—this is a good thing, something I've looked forward to for more than 50 years of turning on my friends and colleagues, and my belief is

that people should be able to get as much of the finest weed available as often as they may want to have it, and as conveniently as possible. And this leads me exactly to where I wanted to end up this column: spending my final 200 words on expressing my disgust for the recent "Medical Pot Shop Law" introduced by the Detroit City Council.

As Christine Ferretti has pointed out in *The Detroit News*, medical marijuana dispensaries do not exist under current state laws, but the experiential reality is that something like 150 such dispensaries have opened up within the Detroit city limits since the City legalized marijuana use in 2012. (Detroit legalized medical marijuana in 2005.) As Ms. Ferretti put it, "Some have opened and have been operating with strict standards to monitor products and treat patients; others are not."

The demand for licensing of these outlets by the city—despite their lack of legal existence—has been spearheaded by the Metropolitan Detroit Community Action Coalition, a group of community, block club and faith-based groups who have come together to combat medical pot shops.

"Right now what we have going on makes absolutely no sense," city councilman James Tate remarked. "We have no regulations whatsoever." So he proposes to set strict licensing requirements for dispensary operators and specify where marijuana access facilities can legally locate within the city, establish required distances between each of the potential dispensaries and specify a distance between the shops and other controlled uses, including party stores and adult cabarets as well as the city's parks, schools and churches.

I've got an instant solution for them: Let the merchants sell the weed to the people who want it. If you don't want any, don't buy any! Don't smoke it! Relax! You don't have to do this. Let it go! Free The Weed!

—Amsterdam

January 20-23, 2016

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Adding Class to the Cannabis Industry

by Ben Horner

Walking into the brand new Tribute dispensary in Detroit is unlike any medical marijuana place I have seen. The walls are ordained with grand murals, depicting famous landmarks and people of Detroit.

The impressive artwork gives you the feel that one is inside a historical museum, capturing some of the best iconic images of the times.

Each wall depicts something different, and you can easily get lost in the visual display.



If that doesn't blow you away, the warm professional staff will. Service is important to many people, but too many dispensaries in Detroit fail to treat you, the patient or caregiver, as a valued human being. These folks actually know about their products and how to help you treat your condition.

If the atmosphere wasn't enough to satisfy, the extremely high quality selection will take your breath away. Tribute has a large variety of flowers, edibles and concentrates to treat almost any condition. It's like a farmers market, without the smoke and aggressive vendors. Open spaces are loaded with displays of products giving you lots to peruse.

Located conveniently on Woodward with secured parking in the back, Tribute is minutes from I-75. I really appreciated being able to park discreetly in the back and being able to come in through the rear entrance, which makes you feel much safer and low profile. Tribute is the must check out spot in Detroit for 2016.



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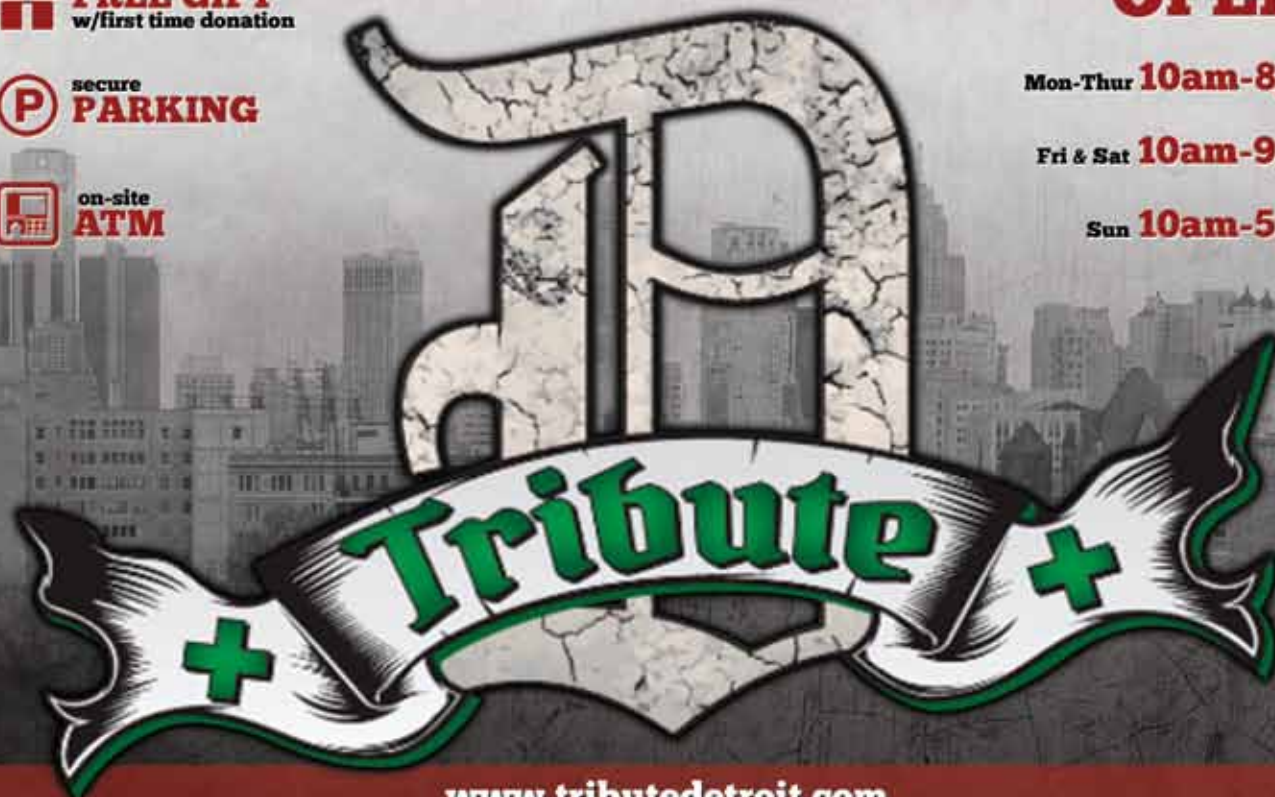
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BLOOD *From a* Turnip



by Citizen Jay

You may have heard that the Attorneys General of Nebraska and Oklahoma have decided to sue the State of Colorado over its enactment of Amendment 64, which constitutionally gave its citizens the right to possess and cultivate Cannabis. Recently, Kansas decided to throw its hat in the ring too, joining Nebraska and Oklahoma along with a slew of sheriffs from both inside and out of the State of Colorado who think the Supreme Court needs to weigh in on the issue. So just what is their beef anyway?

Well, if you look at the published legal analysis available about the situation (OY!) you see the “injured” states are claiming that Colorado’s suddenly legal Cannabis market is putting a strain on their finances and criminal justice systems—creating in essence an “interstate nuisance.”

Nebraska and Oklahoma say that Colorado’s system of Cannabis distribution does not adequately ensure that their states won’t be affected. This is their “nuisance.” They claim that their states are adversely impacted by Colorado’s constitutional amendment and argue that Colorado’s law is pre-empted by the Federal Controlled Substances Act. They are asking the Supreme Court to force Colorado to obey the Controlled Substances Act.

But just what is this really about? It’s about putting people in jail and extorting them for money. It’s about the threat to a corrupt system populated by complacent if not complicit individuals (both private and public) who have become dependent on the idea that

their income relies on the persecution and prosecution of others.

Think about it. Just who are these law enforcement people actually angry with? Who is it that they are arresting over Cannabis? It’s their own people. It’s not like Coloradans are travelling to these states to sell Cannabis. No, it’s their own folks who gamble to cross state lines to find relief from a plant.

The opponents of Cannabis legalization would like to frame their arguments in strict legal terms, of course. They’d like to remove any moral imperative from the equation. To them, it’s simply a matter of law. And in their minds, there are no people involved in the decision making process at all. They want to argue the validity of Colorado’s Cannabis law with regards to the interstate commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. The clause that allows the Supreme Court to weigh in on whether a state’s internal laws might affect the commerce of other states or the Nation as a whole. It’s a peculiar argument to be sure, when you consider that we’re talking about an “illegal” substance.

Some legalese: the precedent that the prohibitionists’ argument rests on comes from a 2005 California case, *Gonzalez v. Raich*, in which the SCOTUS ruled that under the Commerce Clause the U.S. Congress may criminalize the production and use of home-grown Cannabis even where states approve of its use for medicinal purposes. The crux of their final argument was that an in-state legal, medical Cannabis market must by definition (because they have no actual statistics) contribute to the interstate trade of illicit Cannabis, thus assuming it affects interstate commerce in general. In other words, diversion of

legal Cannabis products out of medical/recreational states into the underground markets of prohibition states affects the prices of Cannabis in those states and thus it falls under interstate commerce.

See? They are saying that our legal pricing is affecting the pricing of their illegal market and somehow that justifies the government coming in and closing down the legal market in order for them to better control the pricing on their illegal market. It makes no logical sense! In their view, it’s better to simply maintain both underground markets in favor of a legal market. Why? So they can continue to make money on the imprisonment and extortion of their own populace. You know, that whole “protect and serve” thing...

So, by using *Gonzalez v. Raich* as the basis for their case, the opposing states are trying to confine their argument to the theoretical—strictly economics. But there is another side to this story, the human element. Because what we’re really talking about here is not the price of Cannabis, but the costs born from the prosecution and incarceration of Cannabis consumers. And these states are fast approaching their budgetary limits.

It is common knowledge in the Colorado Cannabis Community that travelling through neighboring states is a risky proposition simply because of your license plates. As much as neighboring law enforcement likes to claim they don’t “profile,” the anecdotal evidence is just overwhelming. So, something as simple as going to visit family potentially becomes a nightmare when you get pulled over and berated for hours about whether or not you’re carrying Cannabis—even when you’re

not. And this story is told again and again, and not just from inside our community.

One of the main reasons Colorado changed its stance on Cannabis in the first place was to save resources—both time and money—for our law enforcement agencies. Years before Amendment 64 was even a glimmer of thought, Coloradans told our law enforcement to make Cannabis a non-priority. We got tired of wasting our resources over such a petty, ridiculous, and lost cause. We saw the benefits and savings right away and that paved the way towards reasoned legalization in our state. Our neighbors could learn a lot from our example instead of continuing to pour their limited resources towards their own lost-cause prohibitions.

Ultimately, what they are complaining about is running out of time, money, and officers to pursue all of those “bad” Cannabis consumers. And make no mistake, the vast majority of the people harassed and arrested for Cannabis crimes are simple folks transporting for themselves and their immediate circles. These are tourists coming back from vacation with a little souvenir or people in pain wanting natural, effective relief free from the pharmaceutical slave masters who hold undue sway over their own wellbeing. They are parents looking for a last ditch effort for their kids.

The vast majority are not hardened criminals looking to move huge quantities. They are not the ones trying to supply an overwhelming underground market whose very existence relies on the incredibly unjust and blind prohibition those cops cling so dearly to. No, they’re just folks like you and me who get targeted by predators looking to score big. The cops get praised for their “effectiveness” in catching dangerous drug consumers. The prosecutors get praised for taking more dangerous people “off the streets.” But that’s not what’s really going on here. The cops are looking to confiscate property for themselves and their departments from ordinary people, not drug dealers. The prosecutors are looking for federal

dollars to continue to fund their persecution of small time offenders. They’re not just going after large drug kingpins. It’s completely circular! And you’ve got to ask who it ultimately benefits? None of these law enforcement groups are actually concerned with public safety, most assuredly not yours.

And now their problem is that they can no longer afford to keep looking for and putting their own people in jail. Their local jails are full of non-violent Cannabis consumers waiting for their days in court. The system is maxed out and they’re finding it hard to keep paying for it. It’s just not paying off the way they’d hoped, I guess. Spending all that money on what is essentially a petty offense without the expected pay-offs from huge hypothetical forfeitures is costing them dearly; but there is only so much blood you can squeeze from a turnip, eh?

It’s a losing battle even if they win. Because at this point in the game there is really not much the federal government can do to put the Cannabis

genie back in the bottle short of military intervention. It’s gone too far, gotten too big (and now the oligarchs have started to pay attention). Recently, the Obama administration weighed in by sending a letter to the Supreme Court asking them not to take up the issue. Not that the Administration is necessarily on our side or in favor of Federal legalization, but because they know the legal morass the case represents.

In the end, what these people are really fighting against is time. Because time is on our side and as I’ve said a million times if you don’t like Cannabis you’re not going to like the future. I suspect that by the time this case ever makes it to the Supreme Court, if it even does, the issue will be moot. 2016 promises to be a watershed year for Cannabis legalization. The tide has already turned and the AGs from Nebraska, Oklahoma and Kansas have missed the boat.





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My Take on a Few Things...

by Adam Brook

Of course, as I sit down to write this I am torn about which direction I want to go. There has been some major drama in The Mitten. Normally I would be naming names and calling people out. I leave that for others on social media these days. Here I want you, my reader, to expand your mind and see things for what they are..... so here's MY take on a few things....

FLINT WATER: It took TWO years to get the media behind this. The people were told their nasty colored water coming from the polluted Flint River was safe.... The good Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha deserves a NOBEL prize for her actions. This woman saved a generation of human beings....it would be an honor to meet her one day.... as to who gets punished, please remember I was sent to prison for TWO years and NO ONE (other than the goon who cut his head open while raiding my home, sorry dude....If I was there I would have told you to be careful the latch was broken) was a victim in my crime. There are victims here, and not just those who are now possibly damaged for life.....what about the cost to the community, the health system, the school system.....ect.

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THE CITY OF DETROIT AND IT'S NEW DISPENSARY

ORDINANCE: What are you afraid of? Don't you see the future? You need to embrace this frontier as you did the tech frontier (which filled some suites in your empty buildings) in Downtown. I can remember when the night clubs started to take empty spots in the financial district downtown and the troubles they caused, but they were not shut down. Why would you want 100+ buildings that are good neighbors and help to keep the neighborhood clean, closed? Because of the behavior of a few? What if the good pastors were held accountable for the behavior of a few bad ones? I watched the pastors get up and HATE on a community they don't know or understand.....sad, but that's the society in which we live allows this to happen....FEAR NOT Detroit, there are blind pigs in the city, always have been, and there will

be dispensaries.....personally I would think you would want to tax and license as many as you could.....

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: Does your dispo calibrate its scales everyday? How would you know? If you are a dispo that does, text me at (313)999-0329 and I will publish your name. How many of you reweigh your purchase before consuming? Ever been short? What do you do? As a dispo, do you ever check the weight on the prepackaged drops you receive? The math can be scary if you look at it....

We are still in the wild west when it comes to weights and measures in the weed game.....Remember the Wild West was won when the GOOD guys shot back!

I would like to congratulate Mark H. for being the first person to text in the correct answer to last month's trivia question: How many joint does Elvy Musikka get in the mail each month? ANSWER: 300

This months trivia question: What sentence did Robocop get? Text your answer to 313-999-0329.

Questions, Comments or Complaints hit me up.....

S/O to the folks who have come to my Periscope broadcasts..... *MMM Report* folks: make sure you drop *MMMReport* in the comments....I'll send a prize to the first 10 people who do.....



Peace,

Adam L. Brook

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Love Potions

by Rebecca Veenstra

I once heard a female comedian talking about how things change in our lives as we get older. "Sometimes in a woman's life she might prefer a nice piece of chocolate and a book to a night of wild love-making." A woman from the audience immediately yelled out "Heck, I'll take a plate of broccoli and a root canal!" I can't help but chuckle at that one.

But it's true... even for you guys out there. Sometimes we just aren't in the mood right?

So, are love potions real? Is there some concoction that you can make for your sweetheart... or yourself...that would ignite the libido and send you racing to the bedroom? There are many tales through out history of conniving vixens and wicked kings ensnaring their true loves with potions and superstitions. I read once that in the middle ages a blend of spices including coriander and cinnamon traditionally served in liquor at weddings was banned because it stimulated the libido too much. Most of what is written about love potions through out history is riddled with superstition.

We seem to embrace superstition as a culture when it comes to love. What girl hasn't plucked the petals from a Daisy while singing "He loves me, He loves me not." My Grandma used to say that if you put a four leaf clover in your shoe you would meet your true love. Another old wives tale claims that if you know who your true love is then you might follow him or her and place marigold blooms in their footsteps.

These silly notions sound bizarre and there's no scientific proof that they work, but the idea has carried on through the ages regardless. Only in fairy tales do they really work though. In real life our true love doesn't often show up to place marigolds in our footsteps.

So, if your intentions lie a little short of true love and you are just looking to heat things up for the evening the medieval love concoction might be just the thing. They weren't too big on showers back then. So, I imagine a little cinnamon would have gone a long way in the scheme of things. But seriously, cinnamon's aphrodisiac properties have long been renowned. Coriander also has been reported to put a bounce in your step. One way to incorporate these two spices might be a hot, steaming cup of Chai tea. The aromatic properties of



these herbs contribute largely to their effect. In fact, I read a study once where men were exposed to different scents and asked to report the smells that most aroused them. Apple pie won with a resounding hands down.

Of course, cinnamon and coriander also increase blood flow. When our capillaries are dilated with blood it increases our skin temperature which also increases sensitivity to touch. Spicy foods like ginger and cayenne can create a similar effect. So maybe you want to put together a nice spicy meal for your some one special this Valentines day.

Other foods that have reported aphrodisiac properties are avocado and celery. Actually if you look up foods with aphrodisiac properties you will find a wide variety of things listed from strawberries and kelp to fava beans. It makes me think of that scene in 9 1/2 weeks. Kind of like a smorgasbord. I suppose when people are looking to mix things up they will try anything.

Back to that book and piece of chocolate though-- I won't be signing up for the root canal and broccoli any time soon-- but there is something to the idea of relaxing and taking a little time to unwind. They say dark chocolate is a wonderful aphrodisiac. Chocolate increases the nervous system's dopamine levels because it contains a compound that mimics the same type of hormones our bodies release during sex. There is some scientific evidence to support the strawberry thing too. So, chocolate covered strawberries should definitely be on the menu.

The point being though that when a person gets a few minutes to unwind and enjoy a little down time-- especially with chocolate-- there's a chance they might be find themselves in a romantic mood.

"When it comes right down to it though, the real aphrodisiac is happiness. No doubt that when you really think about it, the best times you have had were when you were relaxed and happy."

Through the centuries there have been endless references to cannabis and it's potential to liven things up in the bedroom. It goes with out saying that cannabis relaxes a person and puts them into a more supine state. The occasional good fit of giggles can get things started sometimes too. Many people have reported that they felt the use of cannabis enhanced their experience.

The 1984 edition of the *Journal of Sex Research* published that "over two-thirds (of participants) reported increased

sexual pleasure and satisfaction with marijuana use. About half of both sexes also reported increased sexual desire while using marijuana. Emotional closeness and physical enjoyment of snuggling were also enhanced."

When it comes right down to it though, the real aphrodisiac is happiness. No doubt that when you really think about it, the best times you have had were when you were relaxed and happy. So, if pepperoni pizza makes your special some one happy, then you are probably on to something.

I'm not saying you shouldn't whip up a batch of spicy tacos with avocado for dinner. Maybe you feel you need to back it up with a chai tea, or gingerbread dessert... or apple pie. You could dim down the lights and set out a little plate of chocolate covered strawberries... maybe a little cannabis infused chocolate if that's your thing.

Just beware though, because after all that you will both have taco breath and probably be so sleepy you won't feel like doing anything. There's the old person in me again... don't laugh. Someday you will be old too.



Rebecca Veenstra is a Chartered Herbalist and founder of New World Seeds in Traverse City, Michigan



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THE FREEDOM RIDE

by Daniel L. Price, Esq.

It is now February, it's almost spring! But winter remains, something I was reminded of on January 13th. I was traveling southbound on US 131 just south of Reed City, when I hit black ice and began to slide on the road. I first slid to the left across the lanes, then back across the road and to the right shoulder. My truck slid down into the grassy area and came to what I thought was a full stop. Next thing I knew I was upside down, blood squirting out of my forehead. Immediately several people stopped and talked to me through the opening where the rear, and driver side windows used to be.

The feeling of being confined in my seat upside down was too much for me. I kept asking someone to cut the seatbelt that held me confined in the seat. I explained I was not hurt. I was bleeding pretty badly so he worried that it could hurt me further. I convinced him to cut me out. Thank you sir.

I kept thinking, what if I were a medical marijuana patient and had my medication in the truck, how would government actors approach the scene? As an attorney who defends freedom throughout this state, I see so many government actors' negative reactions to the medical marijuana community. So I curiously waited.

The ambulance crew were first. They were concerned of a head injury, so asked me several questions. When satisfied I was coherent, they guided me to the ambulance to check me out. While in the ambulance, an officer poked his head in and asked a couple questions. I informed him I had a shotgun and an AR-15 in the bed of the truck, and at least a thousand rounds of ammunition. What can I say, I really enjoy my right to defend myself. I told



him of my concern for the weapons potentially getting into the wrong hands.

The officer thanked me and saw to it that the weapons and ammunition were safely retrieved and guarded. As it turns out, that officer and his partner are from the Osceola County Sheriff's Office, and they believe in the right to bear arms.

The deputies offered to take me to a location to meet someone for a ride, as I refused to go to the hospital. One of the deputies also used his own cell phone to allow a friend to contact me through the dispatch so she could confirm I was ok. You see, one of those kind people who stopped called the person I asked to be contacted, as she was the first person who came into my mind during the ordeal.

The deputies then allowed me to put all of my belongings, including the weapons and ammunition, into their patrol car, and took me to the location to meet her. On that ride, we talked about our work and my philosophy of freedom, in the context of their law enforcement duties. I was quite surprised to find out that these two deputies actually had some similar views. As we spoke, I realized that the deputies were actually encouraged to hear words of freedom. I explained that alleged "crimes" that have no victims have no place in a society based upon freedom. They admitted

that they had never thought of things in the same way. Yet, these two deputies were open to listening and learning more. In fact, one of the officers said he would like to have an attorney with my philosophy in his corner if he ever needed one. I was pleasantly surprised.

It took about 30 minutes or more, but we arrived at my destination, and the deputies went in and explained to the people in the gas station why I was there and why I had the weapons and ammunition. Wow, I never thought I would ever have an interaction with government actors like that. To those deputies, I tip my hat and humbly say thank you.

It is encouraging to see that there are those in government that seek the ideas of freedom, which was absolutely lacking in their indoctrination in the schools as they were growing up. I hope that in the future, those deputies will remember our conversation, when they are faced with a driver who does have a medical marijuana card. I hope that the deputies will not only recognize freedom, but will use their position to fight for the right of self-determination for all individuals. I hope the deputies realize and remember that if they do not fight for the right to self-determination, it will eventually be destroyed by those who seek to deny them their freedom!

Thank you again to the Osceola Sheriff's Deputies. Till next month, as always, keep rolling on.

Disclaimer: This is an informational article only. It is not to provide individual legal advice. If you need legal services, feel free to contact me, or any attorney of your choosing.

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DEATH AND TAXES

Still a Certainty, Even for MMJ

by Paul Samways, CPA

No one likes to pay taxes, but they are a necessary evil of our economic system. Having worked as a government auditor, I can speak first-hand to how some of this money is wasted, however, it does some good as well. Like educating our kids, maintaining infrastructure and providing for our common defense. Also, the medical marijuana industry needs to pay its fair share in the communities where they do business if we want to be accepted as a legitimate part of the local business community.

As the managing partner of Michigan's largest medical marijuana CPA firm, I talk to lots of caregivers and retailers who are confused as to whether or not they need to file income taxes on sales of medical marijuana. The line of thought is that since it is federally illegal, then it shouldn't be taxable either; not to mention, filing an income tax return on an illegal business would be a potential admission of guilt in court.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Here's the problem: right there at the beginning of the IRS code, which is just part of the U.S. Federal Code of Laws, Section 61 states: "all income foreign or domestic" is taxable and includes income earned illegally. What this means is that if you are running a gambling operation, whorehouse, or are a part-time hit man, you have to declare your income. And as long as you aren't trafficking in a Schedule 1 substance, like marijuana, you can deduct the cost of wages, gambling tickets, linens and ammunition; dispensaries and caregivers are limited in they can deduct from their taxable income.

That said, we have found too many attorneys, CPAs and IRS Enrolled Agents who have given their clients horrible advice, like claiming the income from MMJ but not the expenses, or hiding it in another business. These are bad ideas; you do have some rights and deductions for both dispensaries and caregivers. Remember Al Capone? Google it, youngsters; Al never went to prison for the myriad of crimes he should have, the government put him away for tax evasion.



Another big issue is the growth of our digital economy; if you want to show income to buy or rent a house, a car or other big-ticket item, you need to explain from where you got it, and how it is going to keep coming in going forward. For this, you need tax returns and if necessary, pay stubs. You can't get that from a shoe box buried in your mom's backyard. You are providing relief for people in need and taking risks with your capital and sadly, your freedom. With a tax return and paystubs, you can establish credit using your medical marijuana income.

Some dispensary owners and caregivers think that filing taxes will cause an alarm to go off at Government Central and an audit and law enforcement visit is going to happen within days of mailing the return. Nothing could be further from the truth: the IRS wants to get paid, not call in a raid. While the IRS budget has been cut by Congress for two years in a row and there has been a long-term hiring and pay freeze, the medical marijuana industry has exploded to 23 non-CBD only states. Should you be one of the less than 1% catch an audit, having a simple organizational plan and good record keeping for the information provided will substantiate your return. And getting there isn't that hard, promise.

The Court Cases

The history of Congressional and Tax Court actions gives a better idea of how we got here. In the early 80's, there was a multi-drug dealer in Minnesota who was able to deduct the entire costs of his distribution empire from his income on his tax returns. Since this was during the high point of the Regan/Bush War on Drugs, Congress got pissed and changed the laws to prohibit any deductions, other than the cost of the inventory, or cost of goods sold, from income for anyone selling a Schedule 1 drug.

As we all know, marijuana has been improperly scheduled, but just like cocaine, heroin or designer drugs, it falls under this section of the IRS code (280E):

"No deduction or credit shall be allowed for any amount paid or incurred during the taxable year in carrying on any trade or business if such trade or business (or the activities which comprise such trade or business) consists of trafficking in controlled substances (within the meaning of schedule I and II of the Controlled Substances Act) which is prohibited by Federal law or the law of any State in which such trade or business is conducted."

The Tax Court has tried a few cases involv-

ing taxpayers that sell medical marijuana. In the seminal case in this area, the Tax Court held that the taxpayer trafficked in medical marijuana, which is a Schedule I controlled substance, and that §280E disallows all deductions attributable to that trade or business. The Tax Court also held, however, that §280E does not disallow the deductions attributable to the taxpayer's separate and lawful trade or business. *Californians Helping to Alleviate Medical Problems, Inc., v. Commissioner*, 128 T.C. 173 (2007) ("CHAMP").

In CHAMP, the government conceded that §280E does not prohibit a taxpayer from claiming cost of goods sold. What this means is that dispensaries with separate lines of business in their stores could deduct the portion of expenses allocated to that business, independently of the cannabis income and deduction.

Other more recent Tax Court cases have been disappointing: in *Olive V. Commissioner* (a.k.a. *The Vapor Room*), the 9th Circuit Court of Federal Appeals just this year affirmed a previous Tax Court decision that disallowed many of the dispensaries deductions. It was a tough set of circumstances to explain to the IRS. The owner of the Vapor Room, Martin Olive, was extremely disorganized and attempted to handle the IRS on his own, at least initially. Since most of the sales and medicine purchases were kept on yellow legal pads, the IRS was able to use what evidence he gave them to come up with estimates of his tax deficiency, so they teed it up and threw a number out there that resulted in an initial tax bill due of millions and millions of dollars. Since he didn't track purchases from vendors at all, the IRS disallowed some of his medicine costs.

So here is the first takeaway: never do your own books when facing an audit and never give anything or discuss issues with the IRS without the help of your CPA or tax attorney. It got a lot more expensive for Mr. Olive as accountants and attorneys straightened out the mess and came up with a reasonable income amount and deductions.

The case did make a couple of important points: the Tax Court relied on testimony of industry insiders to determine the cost of goods sold as a portion of revenue (71%) based on expert testimony. The other lasting legacy of this decision is that the case history provides more precedent that a recreational or medicinal marijuana facility can have multiple lines of business, with only the business engaged in selling marijuana subject to the harsh disallowance provisions of Section 280E. This means dispensaries need to diversify their product and service offerings,

as CHAMPS did, from just selling medical marijuana in order to deduct what would otherwise be more non-deductible expenses under 280E.

Other Ways to Save Money

Another method to increase the cost of goods sold or inventory costs is to capitalize certain non-deductible costs under 280E into inventory, using another section of the IRS code, 263A, the Uniform Capitalization Rules (UNICAP), implemented in 1986. What this section does is require businesses with income larger than \$10M or that meet certain production tests to put certain indirect costs into the cost of the finished product.

Here is how it works: a manufacturer like Ford, for example, makes a car in 2015 and includes the direct cost of labor and parts into the inventoried cost of the car. For this example, let's say the direct parts and labor total \$5,000; Ford then has to add in indirect costs, like human resources, quality inspectors, purchasing activities, etc. Let's say these costs are another \$2,500 for our car, so the total direct and indirect costs allocated to that car is \$7,500. The both the indirect and direct expenses are not deducted until Ford sells the car to a dealer for resale, likely in 2016, so they don't get to deduct the expense in the year the car was made, rather, in the year it actually sells. It's a clever way to keep expenses in inventory and off a tax return as a deduction. The upshot of this code section: the IRS has had an impressive win record defending 263A exemption claims.

The problem with using 263A UNICAP rules is that most business do not meet the requirements; also, the IRS Office of General Counsel responded to using this method in a memorandum dated December 10, 2014. This memo is guidance to IRS field agents and reviewers on how to handle MMJ returns and it specifically denies using 263A to increase cost of goods sold. While the reasoning in the memorandum is weak, it will have to be tested in Tax Court with the right kind of circumstances. Or better yet, dealt with in Congress, which has the power to change the IRS code to address the tax issues with MMJ.

Caregivers Have It Easy

For caregivers, the legal precedent and the IRS memo confirm what we have been asserting on tax returns for a while now: since caregivers produce an end-product, the component costs of that end-product are tax deductible (from the IRS memo dated Dec. 10th, 2014:

"a producer of a Schedule I or Schedule II controlled substance should be permitted to deduct wages, rents, and repair expenses attributable to its production activities".

This means all of the supplies, utilities and other direct and indirect costs are fully deductible from income as a caregiver. Whether licensed or not going forward, caregivers are in the best place from a tax standpoint. Same goes for processors of concentrates or edibles; since a tangible product is produced, the production costs incurred are part of the total cost of the item and deductible from income.

Dispensaries Have It Worse

Because all non-inventory costs are not deductible under Section 280E, everything that isn't the cost of medicines sold is not deductible. However, there are ways to structure a retail outlet to minimize this reduction in ordinary business expenses, particularly if the dispensary also self-supplies from their grow to the retail outlet or has a lot of product prep costs.

The key to all of this is good organization and a firm grasp on what is going on with the business on a day-to-day basis. We have developed spreadsheets and other organization systems to help MMJ professionals get and stay organized before and after tax season. And they do not require a big investment in time and treasure for accounting software like QuickBooks, but can run off of bank statements and spreadsheets. Also, if income is required to be documented, we have methods to get you paystubs and help file the required payroll taxes, based on how well your business is doing each quarter.

If you have any questions for me on MMJ tax and accounting, please feel free to reach me at info@cannibistaxadvisors.com or call (517) 258-1424.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
 BLACK HISTORY MONTH	<div>1🌱 7:53AM🌻 5:51PM</div>  Happy Birthday Daddy Fat Sax! Detroit Dab Wars	<div>2🌱 7:52AM🌻 5:52PM</div>  GROUNDHOG DAY	<div>3🌱 7:51AM🌻 5:54PM</div>  1870: 15th Amendment ratified	<div>4🌱 7:50AM🌻 5:55PM</div>  Detroit Dab Wars	<div>5🌱 7:49AM🌻 5:56PM</div>  American Heart Association. life is why™ National Wear Red Day	<div>6🌱 7:48AM🌻 5:57PM</div>  Happy Birthday Bob Marley!		
<div>7🌱 7:46AM🌻 5:59PM</div>  Super Bowl Sunday	<div>8🌱 7:45AM🌻 6:00PM</div>  Chipotle Closed Today Detroit Dab Wars	<div>9🌱 7:44AM🌻 6:01PM</div> Mardi Gras  Happy Birthday Guy-Manuel De Homem Christo!	<div>10🌱 7:43AM🌻 6:03PM</div>  1942: Glenn Miller earns first gold record of all time for selling 1 million copies of "Chattanooga Choo Choo"	<div>11🌱 7:41AM🌻 6:04PM</div>  Happy Birthday Thomas Edison! Detroit Dab Wars	<div>12🌱 7:40AM🌻 6:05PM</div>  Happy Birthday Abraham Lincoln!	<div>13🌱 7:39AM🌻 6:07PM</div>  Katt Williams: Conspiracy Theory Joe Louis Arena Detroit, MI		
<div>14🌱 7:37AM🌻 6:08PM</div>  Happy Valentine's Day	<div>15🌱 7:36AM🌻 6:09PM</div>  Presidents Day Detroit Dab Wars	<div>16🌱 7:35AM🌻 6:11PM</div>  Happy Birthday Ice-T!	<div>17🌱 7:33AM🌻 6:12PM</div>  Happy Feast of Constablis!	<div>18🌱 7:32AM🌻 6:13PM</div>  Bone Saint Andrew's Hall Detroit, MI Detroit Dab Wars	<div>19🌱 7:30AM🌻 6:15PM</div>  Black Sabbath: The End The Palace of Auburn Hills Auburn Hills, MI	<div>20🌱 7:29AM🌻 6:16PM</div>  1962: John Glen Jr. becomes first American to orbit the earth.		
<div>21🌱 7:27AM🌻 6:17PM</div>  1953: Structure of DNA molecule discovered by Francis Crick and James D. Watson	<div>22🌱 7:26AM🌻 6:18PM</div>  Guttermouth Cryptics The Hangdowns Randy Bastards Majestic Cafe Detroit, MI Detroit Dab Wars	<div>23🌱 7:24AM🌻 6:20PM</div>  1945: U.S. flag over Iwo Jima	<div>24🌱 7:23AM🌻 6:21PM</div>  Meet Bootleg! @MOS Certs. Flint, MI	<div>25🌱 7:21AM🌻 6:22PM</div>  Outdoorama Outdoorama at the Suburban Collection Showplace Thursday Feb. 25 thru Sunday Feb. 28 Novi, MI			<div>26🌱 7:20AM🌻 6:23PM</div>  Whistle Stop Revue Chelsea Alehouse Brewery Chelsea, MI	<div>27🌱 7:18AM🌻 6:25PM</div>  The Who Joe Louis Arena Detroit, MI
<div>28🌱 7:16AM🌻 6:26PM</div>  Happy Feast of Hilarious	<div>29🌱 7:15AM🌻 6:27PM</div>  Leap Day! Detroit Dab Wars	<div>📅</div>  <div>February Fun Facts!<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Derived from the Latin word <i>februum</i> which means purification.• The only month that can pass without a full moon.• Febuary is the most misspelled of all the months.</div>						

Sunrise and sunset times shown for Lansing, Michigan. Times for other areas may vary.

If you know of an event that should be featured on the MMM Report calendar page, let us know! mmmreport@gmail.com

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Jokes

A mean old grouch walks up to a person smoking a joint, and says,

"Don't you know that smoking weed makes you ignorant and apathetic?"

The smoker turns to him and replies, *"I don't know, and I don't care."*

WANNA SMOKE?



ALPACA BOWL

KUSH HAD ME LIKE



I used to smoke pot and go to class. Sneak in ten minutes late with a bullshit excuse. Slink down low at my desk. Pray to god nobody asked me any questions.

I was the best teacher ever.

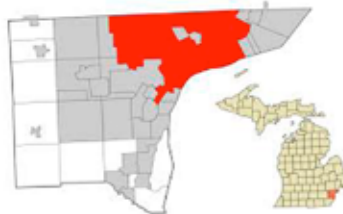


Hey kitten, you got any weed meow?

You can go to jail for weed!

I know, but it's too expensive there.

Mission: Take Down Detroit



30 Days from March 1st: The Medical Marijuana Ordinance goes into effect. We have till then to build our cases against those who stand against us.



In thirty days from March first we will be able to shut down at least two-thirds of the "Provisioning Centers!"

Three stoners rob a convenience store.

Running from the cops, the stoners duck into an alley and they each jump into a potato bag to try and hide.

The cops caught up and one of the officers kicks the first potato bag. "BARK!" says the first stoner. The cops say, "Oh it's a dog, leave it alone."

They kicked the second potato bag. "MEOW!" says the second stoner. The cop says "This one's just a cat. Leave it alone."

They then kicked the third potato bag.

They kicked it again.

And again.

And again. The stoner could not think of something to say.

The cops kicked it again.

"POTATO!" said the stoner.

HOROSCOPES

FEBRUARY 2016



CAPRICORN
DEC. 23 ~ JAN. 20

You might think that everyone is talking about you behind your back. They are. Don't worry though, because there's nothing you can do about it.



AQUARIUS
JAN. 21 ~ FEB. 19

Try to spend less time focused on your physical appearance. No one likes a narcissist. Besides, no amount of grooming can fix how ugly you are inside.



PISCES
FEB. 20 ~ MAR. 20

Have you ever felt like you were being watched? Don't let paranoia get the best of you. No one would ever want to watch your boring life anyway.



ARIES
MAR. 21 ~ APR. 20

Sometimes instead of holding our feelings inside, it's can be helpful to confide in close friends. Too bad you don't have any, and if you did, they wouldn't even care.



TAURUS
APR. 21 ~ MAY. 21

Hard work has it's own rewards and it's always important to try your best. Even though we all know that your best will never be good enough.



GEMINI
MAY. 22 ~ JUNE 21

Difficult decisions in life can be hard to make. For some people, turning to religion might seem like it could help. Too bad it's all a bunch of bullshit.



CANCER
JUNE 22 ~ JULY. 22

Try not to worry so much about making more money. No matter how successful you are in life, you'll never be able to pay someone to fix your shit personality.



LEO
JULY 23 ~ AUG. 21

No one really likes you unless they are just trying to get in your pants. It's okay though because you're so shallow that sexual relationships are the only thing that's important to you. Keep up the good work.



VIRGO
AUG. 22 ~ SEPT. 23

Situations will arise that will test your temper. There's nothing to gain from losing your cool. Except the satisfaction of choking someone to death.



LIBRA
SEPT. 24 ~ OCT. 23

It often seems that nothing ever turns out like it's planned. Just remember everything happens for a reason. The reason is, you suck at making plans.



SCORPIO
OCT. 24 ~ NOV. 22

When looking for romantic opportunities in life, it's best not to make persistent unwanted advances on female coworkers. In other words, she's not interested, bruh.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV. 23 ~ DEC. 22

They say it's lonely at the top. But try not to lose too much sleep over how you got there. You won't stay on top for long if you don't have your ear to the ground.



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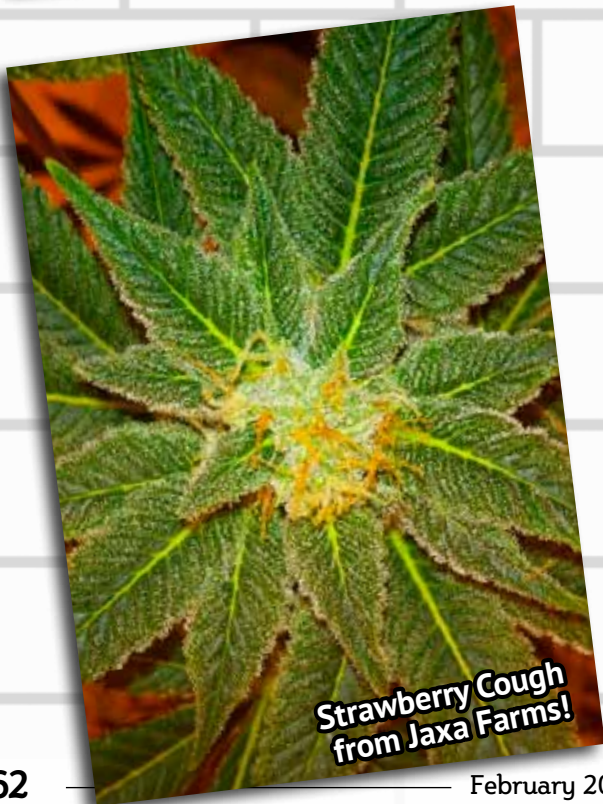
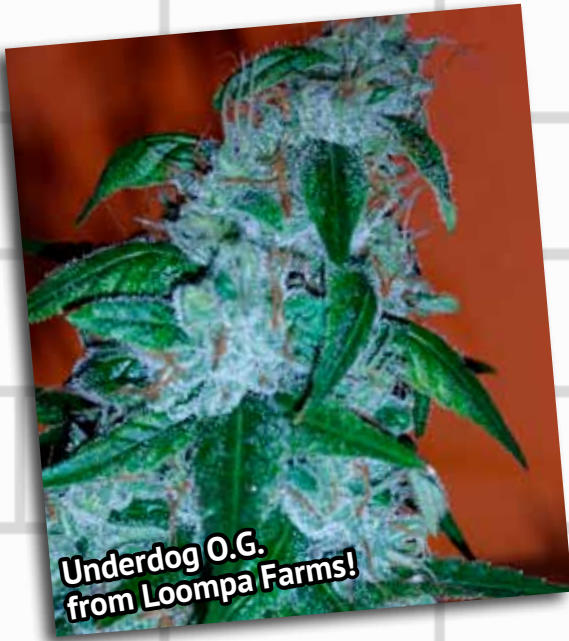
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THE WALL



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11th Michigan Medical Marijuana CONFERENCE

by Ben Horner

Anticipation for the upcoming event in Grand Rapids is resonating throughout Michigan. Returning to a Ticketmaster venue like The Orbit Room is very exciting.

Attendees have the opportunity to get certified for a medical marijuana card or renew an existing one right on site. Grow classes and product vendors are there to educate new comers and seasoned growers alike about new techniques and products on the market. Wholesale grow supplies, smoking, vapor, clothing, artwork and more is available.

Cannabis Stakeholders Business Seminar teaches people about how to operate medical marijuana establishments. There is a reason why dispensaries are legal in places like Ann Arbor, Flint and many others. Learn the secrets of how to change your local laws to allow for dispensaries and the tricks you need to give you a defense in court if you get raided. This class gives you all the start up tools you need and supplemental support after you have completed the seminar.



March 19 & 20 Grand Rapids

Experts in cultivation, taxes, business and law will be on site teaching a variety of classes that will give folks the edge they need to grow bigger, better and safer. Activists involved in cannabis law reform and medical marijuana will be there to recruit and discuss the state of affairs in Michigan.

The 2016 Caregiver Cup contest will be giving awards to people for best indica, sativa and hybrid flowers. Edibles and Concentrates categories and awards for high CBD are also given. All participants in the Caregiver Cup are invited to an exclusive VIP party on Saturday. Samples can be dropped off at ACT labs in Lansing, New World Seeds in Traverse City or Michigan Organic Solutions in Flint.

Everyone is invited to the Orbit Room March 19th and 20th to Get Certified, get Educated and get Growing. Join the movement.





11th Michigan Medical Marijuana CONFERENCE

Grand Rapids - March 19th & 20th 2016



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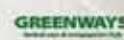
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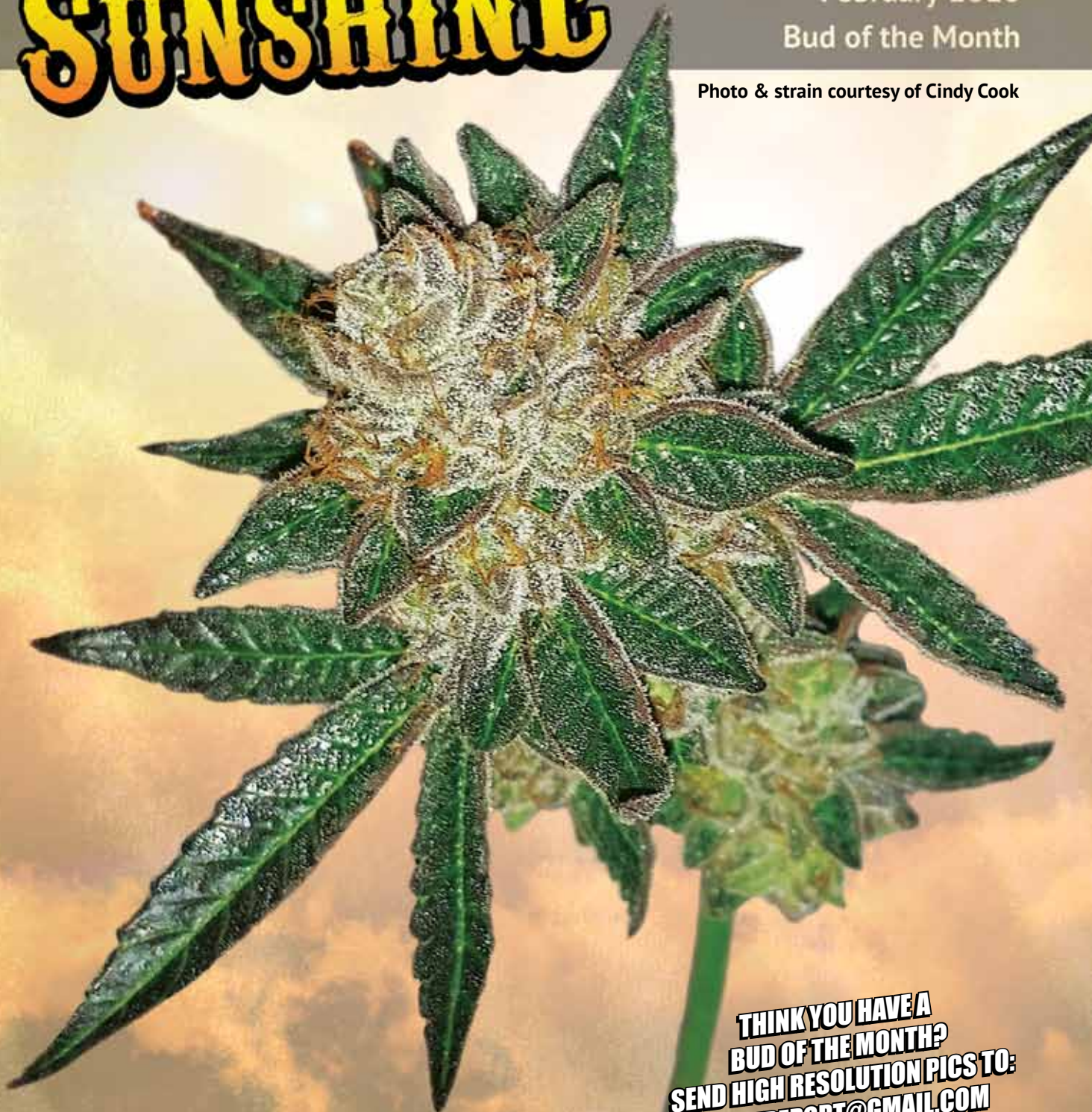
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MMM Report
February 2016
Bud of the Month

Photo & strain courtesy of Cindy Cook



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The Green Bean East
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CERTIFICATIONS

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Cultivation Station

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leafdoctor1@gmail.com

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